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LETTER DATED 11 JUNE 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the note verbale of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning serious border incidents at the Yugoslav-Albanian border, which was handed to the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Albania, in Belgrade on 7 June 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Albania and has the honour to draw its attention to 18 serious border incidents (a list of which is enclosed herewith) that took place at the Yugoslav-Albanian border in the period between 1 January and 31 May 1993.

In this connection, the Yugoslav side has noted that the number of border incidents has significantly increased in contrast to 1992 and expresses its serious concern at this unfavourable and undesirable trend.

However, the fact that all border incidents took place in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that persons who violated the border regime were always Albanian citizens confirms, beyond doubt, the position of the Yugoslav side, repeated on many occasions, that the incidents are the result of the lack of willingness of the Albanian side to abide by the valid bilateral agreements and international standards regulating the crossing of State borders and movement in border areas and to prevent illegal crossings of Albanian citizens to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav side has to note once again that its repeated appeals to the Albanian side to that effect have, regrettably, met with no response.

Similarly, despite the repeated proposal of the Yugoslav side for holding a meeting of the Main Joint Yugoslav-Albanian Commission for Border Incidents, the Albanian side has been postponing it since June 1992 without providing a viable and justified reason.

Consequently, a situation has been created at the Yugoslav-Albanian border in which new incidents with similar or even more serious consequences cannot be excluded. Such a situation requires an early meeting of the Main Joint Yugoslav-Albanian Commission for Border Incidents, and the Yugoslav side takes this opportunity to propose once again that a meeting of this Commission be held at the earliest possible convenience since it is the only possible form of bilateral settlement of open border questions, including harmonization of preventive measures to reverse such undesirable trends at the Yugoslav-Albanian border, which would be in the interest of the overall relations between the two countries and of peace and stability in the Balkans and beyond. An early reply to this request would therefore be highly appreciated.

Enclosure

Rundown of border incidents at the Yugoslav-Albanian border in the period between 1 January and 31 May 1993

On 12 January 1993, at 12.30 p.m., in the area of the "Stojanović" security post (Prizren), a border patrol spotted an Albanian national at 20 to 30-metres distance into Yugoslav territory, cutting wood, and warned him. At the same moment, fire was opened at the patrol from Albanian territory. The patrol returned fire and the Albanian woodcutter returned to Albanian territory. There were no other consequences.

On 17 January 1993, near the C-13 border marker in Albanian territory, a fire broke out and spread to Yugoslav territory; the Yugoslav border guards put out the fire.

On 18 January 1993, around 11.30 a.m., near the C-13 border marker, Yugoslav border guards were fired at by two Albanian nationals from small arms, fortunately without any consequences.

On 22 January 1993, near the C-6/2 border marker, a fire was set in Albanian territory, which spread to Yugoslav territory, causing damage in an area 400 metres wide and 50 metres deep.

On 24 January 1993, at 3.40 p.m., near the C-10/28 border marker, a fire broke out in Albanian territory and spread to Yugoslav territory, causing damage in an area 20 metres deep and 50 metres wide.

On 2 February 1993, around 12.27 p.m., a European Community (EC) monitoring helicopter violated Yugoslav airspace from Albanian territory in the direction of Skadar-Bar. The Yugoslav authorities took no action.

On 3 February 1993, at 6.25 p.m., at the level of the C-4/10 border marker in the area of the "Morina" security post, three Albanian nationals were killed while trying to cross the border illegally in disregard of warnings of Yugoslav security guards. The incident was reported and an on-site investigation was carried out.

On 9 February 1993, around noon, the Albanian border guards practised defence of the "Dobruna" security post and opened fire towards the Yugoslav security post "Goden", Djakovica border unit. There were no consequences.

On 19 February 1993, around 11.50 p.m., Yugoslav security guards of the "Posteglaš" security post, Ulcinj, caught an Albanian soldier cutting wood in Yugoslav territory.

On 1 March 1993, around 11.55 p.m., near the D-10/3 border marker in the area of the "Vrbnica" security post (Prizren), Yugoslav border guards, in preventing illegal crossings of Albanian nationals from Albanian territory in disregard of their warnings, opened fire and killed one Albanian national and wounded two of them. This border incident was reported and an on-site investigation was carried out.

On 9 March 1993, around 10.30 a.m., Albanian security guards fired four shots at Yugoslav border guards in the "Vrbnica" security post (Prizren). No one was injured.

On 9 March 1993, on the bridge in front of the Yugoslav border crossing "Vrbnica", a group of 50 Albanian citizens, accompanied by 2 officers and 3 soldiers, congregated. They took pictures of Yugoslav territory and insulted Yugoslav border guards at the "Vrbnica" border crossing. The incident was reported to the Albanian side.

On 21 March 1993, around 7.25 p.m., near the C-4/10 border marker, Djakovica, two persons were killed as they were illegally crossing the border from Albania in disregard of warnings of Yugoslav border guards. This border incident was reported and an on-site investigation was carried out.

On 22 March 1993, at 1.30 p.m., in the border area between the C-10/22 and C-10/23 border markers (Djakovica border unit), four Albanian shepherds came to the border line and tried to cross the State border. One of them crossed to Yugoslav territory and walked along the patrol route. Border guards tried to stop him but he continued to run. Arms were used and he was wounded, but managed to reach the Albanian side. The incident was reported to the Albanian side.

On 25 April 1993, around 8.30 p.m., near the C-2/10 border marker, Djakovica, an Albanian national was killed and another one taken to the security post because they illegally crossed the border in disregard of warnings of Yugoslav border guards. An on-site investigation was carried out and the case was solved through the local joint commission.

On 25 April 1993, around 9.55 p.m., near the D-10/11 border marker, five Albanian nationals were killed while being prevented from illegally crossing the border. They disregarded the warnings of Yugoslav border guards and assaulted a border patrol. The incident was reported and an on-site investigation was carried out.

On 26 April 1993, in the area of the "Bojana" security post, Ulcinj, two Albanian nationals threw dynamite about 25 metres deep into Yugoslav territory.

On 30 May 1993, around 2.35 p.m., the Albanian authorities fired eight shots from their security post over the "Morina" border crossing, which fell 50 metres deep in Yugoslav territory, 10 to 15 metres from border guards.